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31. (Once Amended) The device according to claim 25, wherein the plasma layers comprise one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of sulfur-containing compounds, thiols, sulfides, disulfides and diallyl sulfide.

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33. (Once Amended) A process for producing a device for investigating reactions between interactive chemical and biological species, said process comprising the steps of (a) providing a pre-selected substrate, said substrate comprising a film of free electron metal consisting essentially of gold and (b) arranging a layer directly on the gold film by plasma deposition, said layer comprising sulfur.

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39. (Once Amended) The process according to claim 37, wherein the substrate is treated in an acid flow.

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42. (Once Amended) The process for providing a device according to claim 33, suitable for investigating reactions between interactive bio/chemical species by means of surface plasmon resonance spectroscopy, said process comprising the steps of:

preselecting a free electron metal substrate, which metal substrate is suitable for investigating and sensing surface interactions by surface plasmon resonance spectroscopy, arranging a pre-selected first functional group species on the free electron metal substrate by means of plasma deposition, which first functional group species protects the free electron metal substrate from a second functional group species whose interaction with the plasma deposited first functional group species can be investigated, thereby preventing undesirable interactions between the free electron metal substrate and the second functional group species, and which first functional group species provides a desired functionality for the second functional group species.

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46. (Once Amended) A method for investigating reactions between interactive bio/chemical species, by means of surface plasmon resonance spectroscopy, by the device of claim 25, wherein the device comprises a pre-selected free electron metal substrate, and a pre-selected, plasma deposited layer arranged on the free electron metal substrate, which plasma deposited functional group species having both attachment ability to the free electron metal substrate, and specificity to further functional group species, whereby the interaction therebetween is investigatable by means of surface plasmon resonance spectroscopy.

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REMARKS

Claims 25-48 are pending in this application. This amendment cancels claims 26 and 27, amends claims 25, 28, 31, 33, 39, 42 and 46, and amends the specification. Support for all amendments to the specification and claims can be found in the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment.

The specification stands objected to because of informalities found on page 2, second paragraph of the Office Action. The specification has been amended to correct the above informalities. Reconsideration of these objections is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 26-28 and 31 stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 (c), for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 26 and 27 have been canceled. As the Examiner suggested, the recitation "gold" in claim 28 and the recitation "amine compound" in claim 31 have been deleted. In view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above objections.